

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 26<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### HINCHEY AND COLLEAGUES PRESS WHITMAN FOR MEETING

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) and four other Members of Congress representing Hudson Valley districts have written to Christine Todd Whitman, Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, again asking for a meeting to discuss the plans to remove PCB's from the Hudson. Whitman's office recently cancelled a meeting that had been scheduled for July 12 and indicated that it was unlikely she would have time to meet with the delegation in the near future.

"It is important for the EPA Administrator to hear all sides of the argument over the cleanup of the Hudson River," said Hinchey. "She's already met with the one member of the Hudson Valley delegation who opposes the EPA's plan for the cleanup. So it certainly would make sense for her to meet with those of us who represent the majority opinion."

The EPA recently completed an extensive public comment period on its plan to remove PCB's from areas of the Hudson River in which they are most concentrated. The contaminants were dumped in the river by General Electric over a period of 30 years. GE has waged a massive public relations campaign in an effort to get the EPA to alter its proposal. Under the Superfund law that governs cleanups of this type, the polluter is required to pay for the remediation. The EPA is expected to issue its final decision on the proposal on August 17.

In addition to Hinchey, U.S. Representatives Mike McNulty (D-NY), Jerrold Nadler (D-NY), Frank Pallone (D-NJ), and Nita Lowey (D-NY) signed the letter that was sent to Whitman on Friday. It reads in part:

"Given the impending mid-August deadline for the Final Record of Decision, it is imperative that we discuss this issue with you before the August Congressional recess. The gravity of this situation warrants your personal involvement in meeting with the Hudson River Congressional delegation."

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